

To: Kent Flood Risk Management Committee – 17th July 2017

From: Tony Hills, Chair of Kent Flood Risk Management Committee

Subject: Kent Resilience Forum Pan Kent Flood Group

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To update Kent Flood Risk Management Committee on current activity by Kent Resilience Forum Pan Kent Flood Group

1. Background

1.1 The Kent Resilience Forum was established in April 2005 to deliver upon legal duties enshrined within the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. The Forum ensures enhanced co-operation across resilience partners, including the emergency services, Government agencies, local authorities and utilities. A number of working groups are operated by the Forum. The Pan Kent Flood Group was launched in October 2014, delivering upon debrief recommendations arising from the winter 2013/14 floods.

1.2 Terms of reference for the Kent Resilience Forum Pan Kent Flood Group are set out at appendix 1 of this report. The Group is chaired by the Environment Agency, with Kent County Council filling the vice chair role.

1.3 At its meeting on 10th March 2015 the Committee requested periodic updates upon the Group's activities and work programme.

2. Work Programme

2.1 The Group meets on a quarterly basis and recently agreed their work plan for 2017/18. The following five key themes are identified as priorities for the coming year:

- Pan Kent and Local Multi Agency Flood Plans;
- Community road closures during flooding events;
- Off-site reservoir inundation planning;
- Better use of Resilience Direct (the Government's secure resilience IT platform); and
- East Coast surge preparedness.

2.2 Training and exercising is another focus of activity, including an innovative programme of flood warden training. A flood warden seminar and equipment demonstration is scheduled for 7th October at East Malling Research Centre. Exercise Tethys is scheduled for 29th November encompassing a reservoir dam failure scenario.

3. Next Steps

3.1 A further report will be tabled at 13th November Flood Risk Management Committee addressing specifically the updated Pan Kent and Local Multi Agency Flood Plans, ahead of winter and its increased risk of flooding.

3.2 Elected Members will continue to be periodically updated on the wider activities of this Group.

4. Recommendations

4.1 That Members:

- Note the work programme for the Kent Resilience Forum Pan Kent Flood Group; and
- Contribute any additional matters arising from debate by the Committee.

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Background documents: None



Purpose of the Group:

To ensure that Kent has appropriate emergency plans in place to deal with the range of flood emergencies set out in the Kent Community Risk Register and to ensure that there are the requisite multi-agency capabilities to respond to and recover from any such emergency. To identify and act upon lessons learned from recent tidal, fluvial, pluvial, ground and surface water flooding events in Kent and agree a structured prevention, response and recovery action plan.

Aim of the group:

Through effective partnership working between Category 1 and 2 responder agencies to ensure common understanding and execution of Emergency Planning, training and exercising responsibilities in order to achieve an integrated response and recovery process to any flooding emergency in Kent.

Objectives:

1. Ensure connectivity between the multi agencies within the group by supporting and assisting in the development of a bespoke Flood action plan to ensure gaps in capabilities are identified and mitigated against.
2. To collate, disseminate and understand recommendations from all agency flood reports and debriefs.
3. Produce an overarching action plan that seeks to resolve the recommendations and identifies any gaps / risks that may need further work.
4. Review / update the KRF Pan Kent Flood plan and District flood plans to incorporate recommendations as appropriate and highlight any risks through the KRF Executive Group.
5. To formulate Task and Finish groups as appropriate with a fixed end date to deliver a defined outcome to the group and make recommendations to the Executive Group as required.
6. Engage the KRF membership on key resource provision to assist in the delivery of the action plan.
7. To ensure timely highlight reports are presented to the Executive Group.
8. To ensure, once approved, the action plan and updated plans are entered and monitored on the KRF Register of Plans and Capabilities.

Priorities:

1. Delivery of debrief recommendations
2. Ongoing work from gap analysis

Membership: Chair: Environment Agency – Luke Thompson
Vice Chair: Kent County Council – Tony Harwood
Appropriate representatives from Category 1 and 2 responders and DCLG (RED)

Frequency: As required (at least quarterly)

Links with: Kent Resilience Forum Risk Assessment Group
Kent Resilience Forum Training and Exercise Group
Kent Resilience Forum Public Warning and Informing group

Reports to: Kent Resilience Forum Executive Group

Secretariat: KRT

Date agreed: 07 January 2015

